DC COMICS™
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THE NEW 52!
5 of 7
FINCH + FRIEND
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GEOFF JOHNS
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I NEVER RUN AWAY FROM ANYTHING.
LEAVE ME ALONE!
YOU CAN CALL IT DRIVE OR COURAGE OR STUPIDITY.
WHO ARE YOU ANYWAY?!
BUT I USED TO RUN. WHEN THE OLDER KIDS WOULD CHASE ME AND MY SISTER, CALLING US NAMES AND HOLDING US IN CONTEMPT FOR OUR FATHER'S REPUTATION.
BACK THEN, THE LUTHOR NAME HURT US.
GOTTA GET AWAY.
AND SOMETIMES WE WEREN'T FAST ENOUGH.
SO I WOULD STOP AND TELL MY SISTER TO KEEP RUNNING--TO HIDE IN THE FIELD UNTIL IT WAS OVER.
AND I WOULD TURN AROUND AND STAND MY GROUND.

UNTIL I WAS KNOCKED OFF MY FEET.
MY NAME IS LEX LUTHOR. FORTY-EIGHT HOURS AGO, A GROUP OF BEINGS CALLED THE CRIME SYNDICATE CAME TO OUR WORLD AND DECLARED IT THEIRS.
THEY CLAIM TO HAVE KILLED THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.
BUT BATMAN'S RIGHT HERE IN FRONT OF ME. PROOF I DIDN'T NECESSARILY NEED TO KNOW THE SYNDICATE'S WORDS CAN'T BE TRUSTED.
I'VE GATHERED TOGETHER THE FEW REPROBATES WHO HAVE REFUSED TO JOIN THE SYNDICATE.
I GET PAID FOR EVERY HEAD WE ROLL.
SO OFF WITH THEM.
THAT'S PUT ME IN THE SPOTLIGHT, BUT I WELCOME IT.
IT MAKES THINGS INTERESTING.
GOTHAM CITY.
WAYNE ENTERPRISES. STORAGE LEVEL D.
DC COMICS PROUDLY PRESENTS
FOREVER EVIL
CHAPTER FIVE: HIT AND RUN
GEOFF JOHNS writer • DAVID FINCH penciller • RICHARD FRIEND inker • SONIA OBACK colorist • ROB LEIGH letterer
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IVAN REIS, JOE PRADO and ROD REIS variant cover C • KATE DURRÉ asst. editor • BRIAN CUNNINGHAM group editor
Superman created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster. By special arrangement with the Jerry Siegel family.

FRIENDS OF YOURS, LUTHOR?
NO.
WHY DON'T I BELIEVE YOU?
I WOULDN'T EXPECT YOU TO.
SSSS!
THOUGH YOU DO REALIZE, BATMAN--
--I JUST SAVED YOUR LIFE.
DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF.

OH, GOD.
POWER LEVELS LOW, YOU PATHETIC FREAK.
SHHH!
CHARGE ME.
SHUT UP.
CHARGE ME, SLAVE!
SHUT UP BEFORE HE HEARS Y--
OH, NO!
BOOMM
AAAEEE!
STOP SCREAMING.
YOU'RE GOING TO GET US BOTH KILLED.
HE IS SINESTRO OF THE PLANET KORUGAR AND HE IS FEARED BY MANY THROUGHOUT THIS UNIVERSE.
BUT IF YOU COULD INCAPACITATE A BEING LIKE THIS ONE...
...YOU COULD FINALLY MAKE A NAME FOR YOURSELF.
THIS IS YOUR CHANCE, HAROLD.
AREN'T YOU SICK OF BEING FRIGHTENED?
SO SHOW THEM YOU WON'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!
IT IS?
OF C-COURSE.
WHAT?
STOP BEING A COWARD!
I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU MORE POWERFUL THAN HIM...
...JUST WISH IT.
I DO WISH... I WISH I WAS THE MOST POWERFUL OF THEM ALL!

I'M TIRED OF BEING AFRAID!

WHY DON'T YOU PICK ON SOMEONE YOUR OWN SIZE, GIGANTA!
WHO IS *NOT* GONNA BE ONE OF US.
CHOOSING TO SIDE *AGAINST* THE *SYNDICATE*, CATWOMAN?
YOU'RE THINKING *SMALL*. THE JUSTICE LEAGUE IS *DEAD*! THE *WORLD* IS *OURS*!
NAPTIME'S OVER, BLACK ADAM!
YOU AREN'T GOING TO LET A *GIRL* KNOCK YOU DOWN, ARE YA?
THEY SAY YOUR ENEMY'S ENEMY IS YOUR FRIEND!
Um, ARE YOU GOING TO *HELP ME* OR *WHAT*?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE?
KRAAK
OM

YOU SHOULD HAVE PLEDGED YOUR LOYALTY TO THE CRIME SYNDICATE, COLD.
THEY DIDN'T EARN MY LOYALTY.
YOU'RE GOING TO DIE.
NO, SHADOW THIEF.
THEY ARE.
AAAIEEEE!
EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM.
YOU'D MAKE A GOOD ROGUE, MANTA.
LIKE LIFE, THIS ALLIANCE IS TEMPORARY, CAPTAIN COLD.
YOU'RE A REAL DOWNER, YOU KNOW THAT?

HSSSS!!
GET CLEAR SO I CAN GET ANOTHER SHOT.
I CAN HANDLE COPPERHEAD.
DON'T TRY TO EARN FAVOR, LUTHOR.
AS SOON AS I'M THROUGH WITH *THEM,* I'LL BE SETTING MY SIGHTS ON *YOU.*
YOU'LL HAVE TO GET IN *LINE,* BATMAN.
KA-CHAK
DON'T MOVE, CUEBALL.

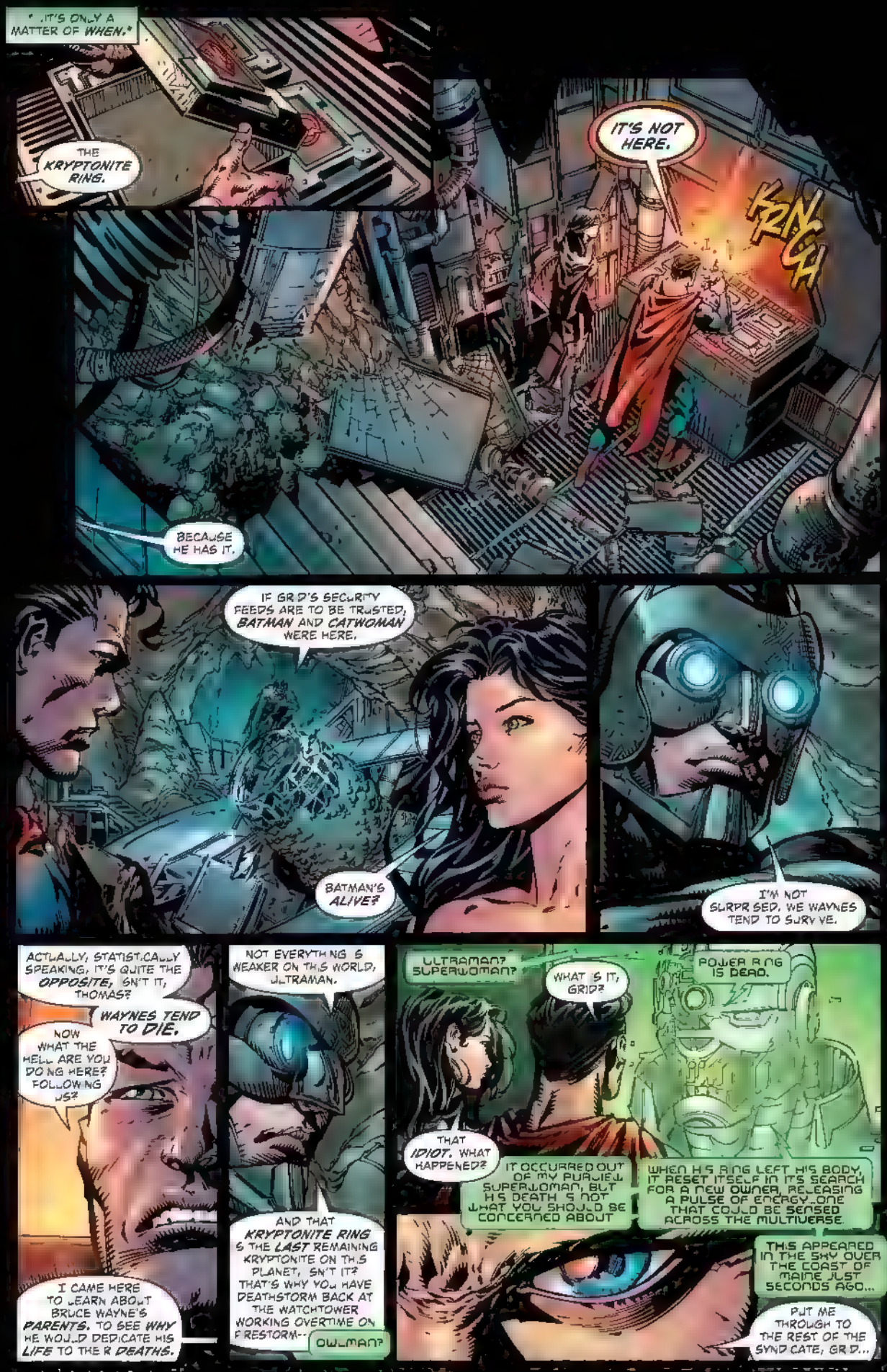
YOU SPEND BILLIONS ON THIS SUIT OF ARMOR, BUT YOU LEAVE OUT THE HELMET--
--I'M GUESSING BECAUSE YOU CAN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF PEOPLE NOT KNOWING IT'S YOU.
YOU'RE A STRANGE CREATURE, ARE YOU NOT?
YOU LOOK LIKE HAL JORDAN, YET IT IS APPARENT ON EVERY LEVEL YOU ARE NOT H.M.
OR A GREEN LANTERN OF ANY KIND.
YOU KILL ME, DEATHSTROKE, AND NOTHING STOPS THE SYNDICATE.
THAT'S THE IDEA, LUTHOR.
I'M NOT A GREEN ANYTHING. I'M POWER RING!
AND I'M TIRED OF BEING PUSHED AROUND!

WHAT DO YOU THINK S GO NG TO HAPPEN F THESE SUPER-DOPPELGANGERS ACTUALLY TAKE OVER OUR WORLD, SLADE?
THERE WILL BE NO MORE NEED FOR MERCENARIES ON A PLANET FULL OF THEM. THE HUNT WILL BE OVER.
AND I KNOW AS WELL AS YOU-- YOU'RE NOTHING WITHOUT THE HUNT.
THE SYND CATE IS BAD FOR BUSINESS.
MINE AND YOURS.
ENOUGH OF TH.S. ENOUGH OF YOU.
I C-CAN'T BREATHE. HELP.
STOP WHINING AND FIGHT, YOU FREAK!
BLOW OUTHOR S BIG BRAINS OUT ALREADY, SLADE.
I'LL SSSWALLOW WHAT'S LEFT AS SOON AS I DEAL WITH BATMAN.
GYAK
CHANGE OF PLANS, SNAKEMAN.
WAIT!

ARRRGHH!
BLAMM
HOST IRREPARABLY DAMAGED.

SCANNING FOR NEW HOST.
BABOOOMM
SCANNING THIS AWFUL PLACE
THE RING. IT'S.
IT'S FINALLY GONE.
THANK YOU.
YOU'RE WELCOME.
FWOOOSHH

YAAARRRRRR!
RRRR!
RR!
RRR?
YES, B'ZARRO.
BLOCKBUSTER WAS BAD.
YOU'RE A GOOD BOY.
AND YOU'RE GOING TO WRITE ME A BIG FAT CHECK IF WE GET THROUGH THIS, LUTHOR.
COME NOW, SLADE.


"...IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF WHEN."
THE KRYPTONITE RING.
IT'S NOT HERE.
KRNCH
BECAUSE HE HAS IT.
IF GRID'S SECURITY FEEDS ARE TO BE TRUSTED, BATMAN AND CATWOMAN WERE HERE.
BATMAN'S ALIVE?
I'M NOT SURPRISED. WE WAYNES TEND TO SURVIVE.
ACTUALLY, STATISTICALLY SPEAKING, IT'S QUITE THE OPPOSITE, ISN'T IT, THOMAS?
WAYNES TEND TO DIE.
NOW WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE? FOLLOWING US?
I CAME HERE TO LEARN ABOUT BRUCE WAYNE'S PARENTS. TO SEE WHY HE WOULD DEDICATE HIS LIFE TO THEIR DEATHS.
NOT EVERYTHING IS WEAKER ON THIS WORLD, ULTRAMAN.
AND THAT KRYPTONITE RING IS THE LAST REMAINING KRYPTONITE ON THIS PLANET, ISN'T IT? THAT'S WHY YOU HAVE DEATHSTORM BACK AT THE WATCHTOWER WORKING OVERTIME ON FIRESTORM--
OWLMAN?
ULTRAMAN? SUPERWOMAN?
WHAT IS IT, GRID?
POWER RING IS DEAD.
THAT IDIOT. WHAT HAPPENED?
IT OCCURRED OUTSIDE OF MY PURVIEW, SUPERWOMAN, BUT HIS DEATH IS NOT WHAT YOU SHOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT
WHEN HIS RING LEFT HIS BODY, IT RESET ITSELF IN ITS SEARCH FOR A NEW OWNER, RELEASING A PULSE OF ENERGY...ONE THAT COULD BE SENSED ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE.
THIS APPEARED IN THE SKY OVER THE COAST OF MAINE JUST SECONDS AGO...
PUT ME THROUGH TO THE REST OF THE SYNDICATE, GRID...

"...WE NEED TO REGROUP--NOW."
BEFORE YOU PULL OUT ANOTHER BATARANG, BATMAN, CONSIDER THIS: THERE'S NO NEED FOR US TO FIGHT, BECAUSE ALL OF US WANT THE SAME THING.
AND WHAT'S THAT, LUTHOR?
WE WANT THE CRIME SYNDICATE ERADICATED.
I WANT THEM TAKEN IN ALIVE.
MAYBE WE COULD STRONGLY SUGGEST IT
YOU KNOW, BATMAN'S NOT SO SCARY IN THE LIGHT.
I MEAN EVER.
YOU THINK WE'RE PLAYING BY YOUR RULES, BATMAN?
THIS ISN'T YOUR GAME ANYMORE. IT'S OURS. AND WE DON'T TAKE PRISONERS.
A MINUTE AGO YOU WERE TRYING TO KILL US, SLADE.
NOW YOU'RE SIDING WITH US?
YOUR REQUEST TO BRING THEM IN ALIVE COMES A LITTLE TOO LATE ANYWAY, BATMAN.

THE GREEN LANTERN PRETENDER S DEAD.
AND THE NEXT TIME YOU ATTEMPT TO ACTIVATE ONE OF MY RINGS, PLEASE DON'T RESIST IT--IT LEAVES THE RING AND YOURSELF VULNERABLE.
SINESTRO...
F YOU ALLOWED YOURSELF TO FULLY EMBRACE FEAR, YOU WOULD HAVE THE POWER YOU DESPERATELY CRAVE. RONICALLY, THE POWER YOU'RE AFRAID OF HAVING.
Mm. WHAT A WONDERFUL YELLOW LANTERN YOU WOULD MAKE.
SINESTRO. WE COULD USE YOUR HELP.
HELP, LUTHOR?
EARTH'S UNDER ATTACK BY A PARALLEL UNIVERSE.
AND I'M TO CARE WHY? I ONLY CAME HERE TO RETRIEVE THE YELLOW RING...WHICH THAT COWARD SOMEHOW DESTROYED.
BUT GREEN LANTERN ISN'T HERE.
OF COURSE HE ISN'T. HE'S OFF TRYING TO LEAD A CORPS HE HAS NO BUSINESS LEADING. TRUE LEADERS DON'T POLL THEIR LANTERNS AND TALLY VOTES. THEY TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE HARD DECISIONS THEY MAKE. THEY PUT THE BURDEN ON THEIR SHOULDERS.
Y' SPEEK LIKE A LEEDER.
BLACK ADAM'S RIGHT. YOU'RE THE KIND OF LEADER EARTH NEEDS RIGHT NOW...
I IMAGINE WHAT A LESSON IT WOULD BE ONCE GREEN LANTERN LEARNS YOU DID WHAT HE COULDN'T.
HELP ME LEAD US TO VICTORY, SINESTRO.

NO. THIS IS A SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSION FIRST--
RICHARD GRAYSON?
YES, LUTHOR. ONCE NIGHTWING'S SAFE, WE TAKE DOWN THE SYNDICATE. BUT ALL OF YOU ARE GOING TO WORK WITHIN THE PARAMETERS I SET AND FOLLOW THE ORDERS I GIVE.
IF WE'RE WORKING TOGETHER, I'M IN CHARGE.
RR.
UH, BATMAN?
THEY'RE IN CHARGE

YORK, MAINE.
SO IF POWER RING'S RING WENT TO FIND A NEW HOST. WHO IS IT?
THAT DOESN'T MATTER RIGHT NOW, JOHNNY.
BUT IF DEATHSTORM CAN TRACK THE ENERGY TRAIL, JOHNNY AND I CAN GO FIND THEM.
YEAH! WE CAN SEE WHAT SORRY 'SACK' GOT STUCK WITH THE CURSE THIS TIME. HA HA!
AS INTRIGUED AS I AM MYSELF ABOUT WHAT THAT RING ACTUALLY DOES TO A HUMAN BODY OVER TIME, MY EXPERIMENTS ARE GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT. EVERYTHING WE'RE DOING ON THIS EARTH IS.
LOOK.
UP IN THE SKY.
I TOLD YOU I WAS RIGHT, DEATHSTORM.
I TOLD ALL OF YOU.

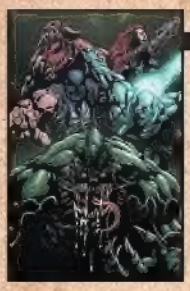
THE CREATURE THAT DESTROYED OUR WORLD HAS FOUND US.
NEXT:
THE SECRET OF THE CRIME SYNDICATE

FOLLOW FOREVER EVIL ALL MONTH LONG!

THIS WEEK

FOREVER EVIL: A.R.G.U.S. #4
Steve Trevor's quest to learn where the missing heroes are leads him to an unlikely ally — Killer Frost — and to one of his most deadly enemies: Cheetah!

JUSTICE LEAGUE DARK #27
John Constantine's ragtag team must vanquish one final obstacle. . . and its name is Blight!



NEXT WEEK

FOREVER EVIL: ARKHAM WAR #5
It's the Destructive Duo of Bat-Bane and William Cobb alone against the army of Talons! And wait'll you see what Scarecrow has in store with a massive amount of Venom!

TRINITY OF SIN: THE PHANTOM STRANGER #16
The Justice League Dark infiltrates the Crime Syndicate – by striking an unholy alliance with Aquaman's evil doppelganger: The Sea King!

IN TWO WEEKS

FOREVER EVIL: ROGUES REBELLION #5
The Rogues against the might of The Royal Flush Gang! Guess who just got dealt a losing hand? Do the boys have any more tricks up their sleeves, or will this be the end of their run?

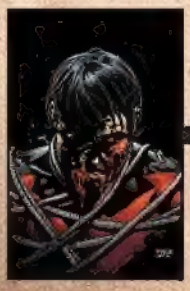
JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #12
Martian Manhunter and Stargirl must race to Los Angeles to save her family from certain death. Standing in their way? The world-conquering alien called Despero!

CONSTANTINE #11
Project Thaumaton revealed! The Crime Syndicate has twisted the world's greatest mystics into something horrible -- is this the beginning of the end?

SUICIDE SQUAD #28
As Amanda Waller and James Gordon Jr. fight for their lives in the bowels of Belle Reve, Deadshot and the Squad struggle to survive a deadly trap that one of their own sprang on them!

IN THREE WEEKS

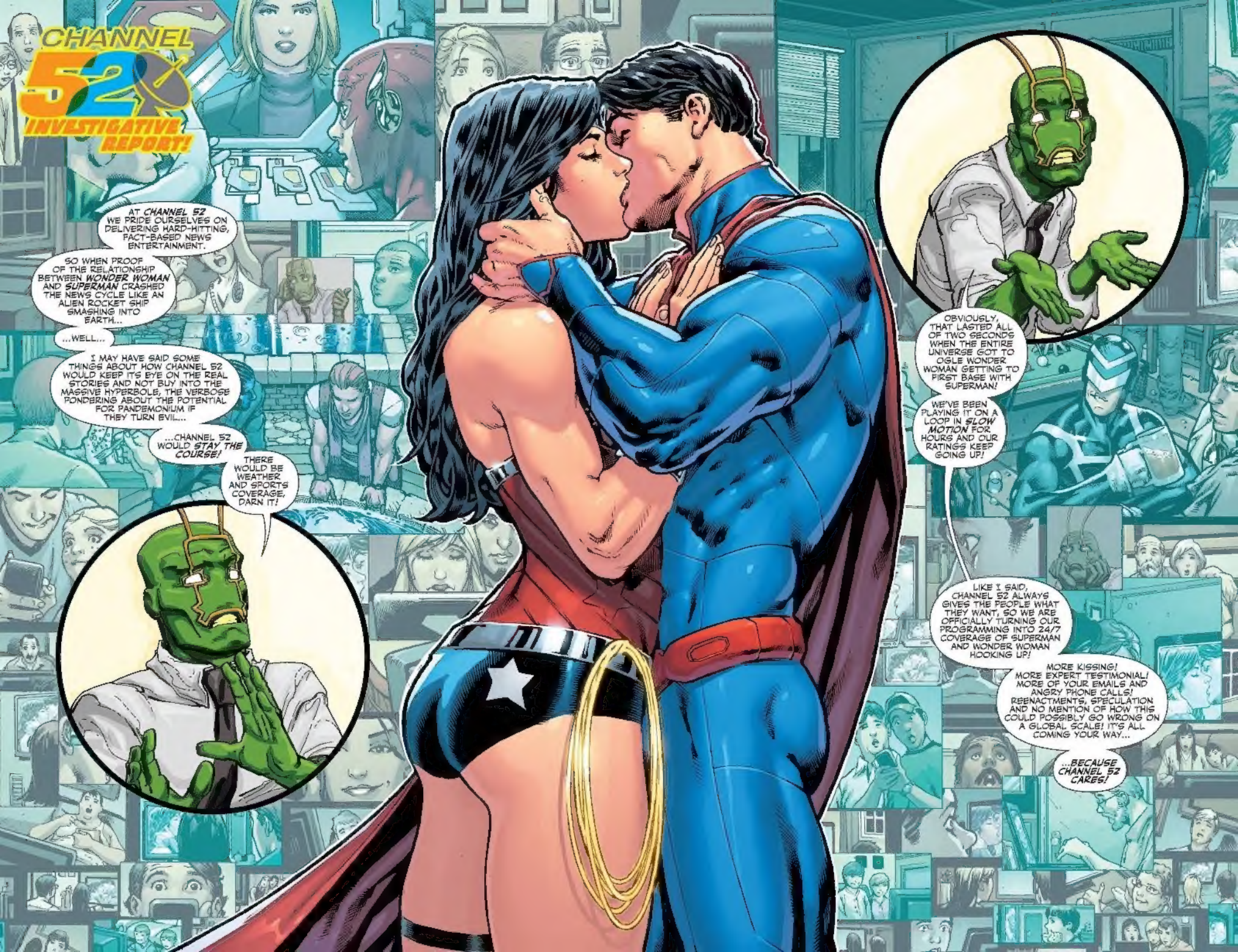
JUSTICE LEAGUE #28
With the Justice League gone, new heroes continue to rise up throughout the DC Universe! The Crime Syndicate tried to kill him, but now Cyborg is back to settle the score — and with him are The Metal Men!



TRINITY OF SIN: PANDORA #8
Pandora and The Justice League Dark race to save the world's mystics from The Crime Syndicate!

AND NEXT MONTH

FOREVER EVIL #6
The final fate of Nightwing! The most unlikely of allies have set the Crime Syndicate in their sights — and they're playing for keeps while the life of a hero hangs in the balance! Plus, the identity of the mysterious man in the hood is finally revealed!


CHANNEL 52
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT!
AT CHANNEL 52 WE PRIDE OURSELVES ON DELIVERING HARD-HITTING, FACT-BASED NEWS ENTERTAINMENT.
SO WHEN PROOF OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WONDER WOMAN AND SUPERMAN CRASHED THE NEWS CYCLE LIKE AN ALIEN ROCKET SHIP SMASHING INTO EARTH...
...WELL...
I MAY HAVE SAID SOME THINGS ABOUT HOW CHANNEL 52 WOULD KEEP IT'S EYE ON THE REAL STORIES AND NOT BUY INTO THE MASSIVE HYPERBOLE, THE VERBOSE PONDERING ABOUT THE POTENTIAL FOR PANDEMONIUM IF THEY TURN EVIL...
...CHANNEL 52 WOULD STAY THE COURSE!
THERE WOULD BE WEATHER AND SPORTS COVERAGE, DARN IT!
OBVIOUSLY, THAT LASTED ALL OF TWO SECONDS WHEN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE GOT TO OGLE WONDER WOMAN GETTING TO FIRST BASE WITH SUPERMAN!
WE'VE BEEN PLAYING IT ON A LOOP IN SLOW MOTION FOR HOURS AND OUR RATINGS KEEP GOING UP!
LIKE I SAID, CHANNEL 52 ALWAYS GIVES THE PEOPLE WHAT THEY WANT, SO WE ARE OFFICIALLY TURNING OUR PROGRAMMING INTO 24/7 COVERAGE OF SUPERMAN AND WONDER WOMAN HOOKING UP!
MORE KISSING! MORE EXPERT TESTIMONIAL! MORE OF YOUR EMAILS AND ANGRY PHONE CALLS! REENACTMENTS, SPECULATION AND NO MENTION OF HOW THIS COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG ON A GLOBAL SCALE! IT'S ALL COMING YOUR WAY...
...BECAUSE CHANNEL 52 CARES!

WHO IS THE JOKER'S DAUGHTER?

Very few characters have made an impact on The New 52 quite like the murderess madwoman known as The Joker's Daughter! From brandishing the real Joker's face as a mask (eww), to ruling over the most deadly new location in the DCU – The Gotham Underground – everything The Joker's Daughter has been involved in has been rather extreme, and she's just getting warmed up! But who is she and what does she want with Gotham City? With this month's special THE JOKER'S DAUGHTER #1 we'll be answering those questions and raising new ones as we reveal more than ever before about this fiendish female. You should expect big things out of THE JOKER'S DAUGHTER this year, and this special is a great place to get caught up on everything you need to know!

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SON OF ULTRON